

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A packet communications apparatus for transmitting a message sent from a caller to a callee, comprising:

a processing part having at least one of two ~~function;~~functions, one function for converting and another function for erasing at least part of ~~the a~~ message sent by ~~the a~~ caller upon a caller's request; and

a control part for determining whether said at least ~~the~~ part of the message should be converted or erased or not,

wherein based on the result of determination at the control part, at least the said part of the message is converted or erased at the processing part.

2. (currently amended) A packet communications apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least the part of the message to be converted or erased is at least one of:

(1) a part identifying a user on a caller side domain in a SIP message header on an IP packet payload containing the SIP message;

(2) a part identifying a caller's domain in a SIP message header on an IP packet payload containing the SIP message;

(3) a part of a Via tag in a SIP message header on an IP packet payload containing the SIP message;

(4) a part identifying a Call-ID's domain in a SIP message header on an IP packet payload containing the SIP message; and

(5) a part identifying a UserID in a SIP message body on an IP packet payload containing the SIP message.

3. (currently amended) A packet communications apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the contents of the message, when received, are analyzed and with detection of a given character string or header, if any, as a start, said at least ~~the~~ part of the message is converted or erased at the processing part.

4. (original) A packet communications apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the given character string is a series of numeric characters filled in the first three digits of a telephone number.

5. (original) A packet communication device according to claim 4, wherein the given character string is a series of numeric characters filled in the first three digits of a telephone number and a UserID guessed from the telephone number is sent with the first three numeric characters deleted to another apparatus storing telephone numbers and UserIDs, and the first three numeric characters are removed at message sending.

6. (currently amended) A packet communications apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the given header is a SIP message header and with detection of an extended header in the SIP message header, if any, as a start, said at least ~~the~~ part of the message is converted or erased at the processing part.

7. (currently amended) A packet communications apparatus according to claim 1, comprising tables ~~for~~ containing both of ~~the~~ unconverted and converted contents of said at least ~~the~~ part of the message.

8. (currently amended) A method for making an IP call comprising the steps of:

checking the SIP message for any request for an Anonymous Call;

performing at least one of the operations, of modification and erasure, on said

at least ~~the~~ part of the SIP message₁ if the request is detected; and

sending the SIP message processed as described above.

9. (currently amended) A method for making an IP call according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

performing the modification operation on said at least ~~the~~ part of the SIP message₁ if the request for an Anonymous Call is detected; and

creating a table containing ~~the~~ correspondence between ~~the~~ unconverted and converted contents of the message.

10. (currently amended) A method for making an IP call according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

modifying an original caller's address to a ~~its~~ temporary address at the initiation of a conversation; and

discarding the temporary address at the end of the conversation.

11. (currently amended) A method for making an IP call according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether a random address should be created or not;

obtaining an IPv6 address prefix from a router in the same subnet if the random address is created;

creating an interface ID;

creating a temporary IP address from the IPv6 address prefix and the interface ID;

creating a modified entry or a new registration entry of user information using the temporary IP address and a UserID to register the user's account; and

canceling an account registration and discarding the IP address at the end of

the conversation.

12. (original) A method for making an IP call according to claim 10, wherein the address is obtained from an external server to use as the caller's address in the case of making an IP call through IPv4.

13. (original) A method for making an IP call according to claim 10, wherein the caller's address is the IPv6 address and the address with random values filled is created as the temporary address.

14. (original) A method for making an IP call according to claim 10, wherein the caller's address is the IPv6 or IPv4 address, the address is first received from an address distribution server in conjunction with message sending, and the address is discarded at the end of the conversation.

15. (currently amended) A method for making an IP call according to claim 10, wherein the caller's address is the IPv6 address and two different addresses, one address for message sending and another address for message receiving, are set, the former address being discarded at the conversation once and immediately after then, a new one being created while the latter ~~being~~is created at the time of message sending and discarded at the end of the conversation.